(b) During 2000-2001, 13.356 tonnes of Natural Rubber was exported and 8970 tonnes imported.

(c) Yes, Sir. For plantation of rubber in non-traditional tribal areas, Govt, of India through Rubber Board is implementing a Block Plantation Scheme in collaboration with the concerned State Governments.

Focus — Africa Programme

3665. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced 'Focus—Africa Programme';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected growth in India's trade with Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that Government has announced "Focus—Africa Programme" on 31st March, 2002 along with EXIM Policy for the years 2002—2007. During the year 2000-2001 India's exports to Sub-Saharan African Region was 1809 million US $. The expected compound growth of exports is at the rate of 20% per annum. It plans to double the exports in the next 4-5 years. The salient features of the programme arc as under:

(i) The main objectives of the programme will be to increase interactions between the two regions by identifying the areas of bilateral trade and investment.

(ii) The "Focus Africa" programme shall aim to focus at Sub-Saharan African Region with added emphasis on the seven major trading partners (Nigeria, South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Ghana) of the region.

(iii) The programme shall aim to focus on the following major product groups for enhancing India's exports to the Sub-Saharan African Region:

— Cotton yarn, fabrics and other textile items;

— Drugs and Pharmaceuticals;

— Machinery and Instruments;

— Transport equipment; and

— Telecom and Information Technology.

(iv) India's exports to Sub-Saharan African Region are envisaged to be enhanced through integrated efforts of Government of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation, Export Promotion Councils, Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Indian Missions and Institutions such as EXIM bank, ECGC etc.

Restriction on Import of Second Hand Machines

3666. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of second hand jute machines for jute mills imported during the last six months;

(b) the number of those which are imported from China;

(c) whether there is any provisions in the present EXIM policy to restrict imports of second hand machines;

(d) in what manner the age of the second hand machines is evaluated; and

(e) what is the number of indigenous jute machine manufacturing units in the country?